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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Applicants: Akira HAMAMATSU et al.  
Serial No.: 10/722,531  
Filed: November 28, 2003  
Title: INSPECTION METHOD AND INSPECTION APPARATUS  
Group: 2877  
Examiner: STAFIRA, Michael Patrick  
Confirmation No.: 7610

**AMENDMENT**

**Mail Stop: AMENDMENT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

November 30, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 31, 2006, the period of response for which extension of time is requested in the attached Petition for Extension of Time, please amend the above-identified application as listed below and as set forth on the following pages:

**Amendments to the claims begin on page 2;**

**Remarks are included beginning on page 6; and**

**Authorization is included on page 9.**